

Puget Sound Steelhead Advisory Group (PSSAG) Meeting Notes

August 1, 2017, 12AM – 7PM

Hampton Inn, Lynnwood, Washington, 98036

Drafted by Cole Caldwell and James Scott

Key Messages to Stakeholders Agreed at Meeting Conclusion

- We have made good progress toward the development of a preliminary portfolio for Hood Canal and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.
- Within a conservation and recovery framework, the preliminary portfolio includes diverse opportunities for catch & keep and catch & release fisheries.
- The preliminary portfolio includes recommendations to promote accountability and adaptively manage hatchery programs to ensure demographic gene flow standards are achieved.
- We are concerned by the lack of habitat protection and restoration focused on steelhead, and will highlight the importance of these actions in conserving and restoring Puget Sound steelhead.
- We identified additional information that would be helpful in the discussions of the portfolio.

Agenda Items discussed at the meeting:

1) Introduction

2) Coarse Scale Assessment of Draft Hood Canal & Strait of Juan de Fuca Portfolios

- **Review results from coarse scale assessment of draft portfolios.**

3) Group Discussion of Hood Canal & Strait of Juan de Fuca Strait of Juan de Fuca Portfolio

4) Group Discussion – continued

5) Looking Ahead

5) External Messages

- What are the 3-5 messages regarding this meeting that we want to provide to other interested stakeholder?

6) Public Comment

7) Thoughts on Meeting

Advisors Attending

Gary Butrim

Derek Day

Curt Kraemer

Al Senyohl

David Yamashita

Mark Spada

Jamie Glasgow

Curt Wilson

Rob Masonis

Rich Simms

Jonathan Stumpf

Andrew Marks

Public Attending

Nick Chambers

Conrad Gowell

John McMillan

Staff Attending

Jim Scott (co-facilitator), Cole Caldwell (co-facilitator)

Annette Hoffmann

Edward Eleazer

Jennifer Whitney

Mike Gross

Mark Downen

Notes from the meeting per agenda item:

1) Introduction

- Jim discussed and reviewed the Summary of Options for the Hood Canal and Strait of Juan de Fuca (SJDF) Major Population Group (MPG).

2) Coarse Scale Assessment of Draft Hood Canal & SJDF Portfolios Notes

- The group reviewed results from the coarse scale assessment of draft portfolios.
 - The group noted that they would like to add run time data into the summary table of options.
 - The group would like to change the Date heading within the Fishery column of the summary table into something else because they feel that the date ranges do not accurately reflect how a fishery season would be established on any given watershed.
 - The group noted that spring chinook run timing and reintroduction programs may impact steelhead fisheries on the Skokomish.

4) Group Discussion of Hood Canal & SJDF Portfolio Notes

- East Hood Canal Discussion and Preliminary Decisions
 - It was identified that Contributing Designations have a stronger conservation message and impact but have less flexibility (specifically in regard to hatchery programs) in comparison to Stabilizing Designations which have elevated flexibility over time.
 - It was identified that a chosen designation could be changed under the five-year review process, and that this action would be difficult but not impossible.
 - The group decided to provisionally recommend designating East Hood Canal as Contributing
 - Rational: The group believes that when in doubt, that the decision between Stabilizing and Contributing should ultimately favor wild fish recovery and opportunity for future generations.
- South Hood Canal
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- Skokomish
 - The group decided to provisionally recommend designating Skokomish as Primary and to have a Catch and Release (C&R) fishery on the watershed. The group set aside a recommendation regarding a segregated hatchery program pending discussion of the Central & South Puget Sound MPG.
 - Rational: The group decision is dependent upon a commitment and prioritization by managers to restore and enhance habitat for steelhead and must

align with the associated settlement agreement. The group also mentioned that managers should consider and apply selective fishing gear restrictions on the C&R fishery.

- West Hood Canal
 - The group decided to provisionally recommend designating West Hood Canal as Primary and to have a Catch and Keep (C&K) fishery on the Big Quilcene River. The group decided to provisionally recommend a segregated program on the Big Quilcene River.
 - Rational: The group decision is dependent upon a commitment and prioritization by managers to restore and enhance habitat for steelhead salmon.
 - Jamie G. asked for clarification and answers to some key questions and concerns he had about the Quilcene.
 - He would like to better understand escapement estimates in the Big Quilcene.
 - He would like to know if we should consider the big and little Quilcene together or separate.
 - He would like to know what the potential for straying is in the Quilcene.
 - He would like to know what the historic production potential was.
 - He would like Quilcene specific information provided to the group. Similar to what was provided to the group for the DPS.
 - He wanted to know if there were any genetic differences in the Quilcene fish.
 - He proposed that the group stipulate a condition that would state that managers would reassess the condition of the river over time.
- Sequim/Discovery Bay
 - The group decided to provisionally recommend Sequim/Discovery Bay as Primary
 - Rational: The recommendation was based, in part, on the recognition of the importance of maintaining the long-term monitoring program at Snow Creek.
 - Some advisors suggested revisiting this designation when DPS recommendations are complete to ensure restoration and protection priorities are clear.
- Dungeness
 - The group decided to provisionally recommend designating Dungeness as Primary and have a segregated C&K fishery that is dependent upon DGF monitoring/estimates that confirms a gene flow ≤ 0.02 .
 - Rational: The group decision is dependent upon DGF monitoring/estimates that confirm a ≤ 0.02 DGF limit.
 - The group had question about:
 - How large the summer runs were on the watershed and what was the status of the runs (NOTE: Answered by WDFW staff)
 - What are the current regulations on the river? (NOTE: Answered by WDFW staff)
 - What are current angler days? (NOTE: Answer unknown)
- SJDF Independents
 - The group decided to provisionally recommend designating SJDF Independents as Contributing
 - Rational: The group believes that when in doubt, that the decision between Stabilizing and Contributing should ultimately favor wild fish recovery and opportunity for future generations.

- Elwha
 - The group decided to provisionally recommend designating Elwha as Primary
 - Rational: The group believes that the Elwha has the potential as a future C&R fishery scenario over time.

5) Looking Ahead Notes:

- The group was not able to finalize a complete recommendation on the Skokomish. The group will put this watershed aside for now and move on to the South Sound MPG.
- The next meeting will take place in September or early October.

6) Public Comment Notes:

- Public attendees were impressed by the groups critical discussions, especially on the hard issue of designating specific watersheds.
- Public attendees urged for group consideration of other commercial perspectives and ideas when making decisions.
- Public attendees observed balanced contributions between science, economics, etc. during the decision making process.
- Public attendees observed respectful conversations about all of the topics.
- Public attendees urged the group to consider the adaptability of chosen thresholds that will/are being established by the group.
- Public attendees urged the group to error on the side of caution.

7) Group Feedback Notes

- The process is working well
- People are impressed
- People are being flexible and thinking big
- There are open and diverse discussions taking place
- Everyone involved is compromising and identifying the complexities of steelhead management
- Fishers have given up a lot over time within the state of WA. We should recognize and fight for their right
- There is room for wild and hatchery fish
- Recreational and species existence opportunity is still key for success
- People are proud to be part of the group
- Group members are marveling at the accomplishments that are being made
- The group is building mutual respect
- The PSSAG is a fun experience
- Some group members with that other stakeholders were present and could see the process and what we are accomplishing
- Joint learning is occurring
- The group has a keen ability to allow members to talk without interrupting others
- The group recognizes that everyone is keeping an open mind, even when they disagree

7) Key Message to Stakeholders Notes

- We have made good progress toward the development of a preliminary portfolio for Hood Canal and the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

- Within a conservation and recovery framework, the preliminary portfolio includes diverse opportunities for catch & keep and catch & release fisheries.
- The preliminary portfolio includes recommendations to promote accountability and adaptively manage hatchery programs to ensure demographic gene flow standards are achieved.
- We are concerned by the lack of habitat protection and restoration focused on steelhead, and will highlight the importance of these actions in conserving and restoring Puget Sound steelhead.
- We identified additional information that would be helpful in the discussions of the portfolio.